

Multiple Sclerosis Society, the United Way, the St. Vincent De Paul Society and the Backstoppers, a local organization that provides assistance to the families of fallen police officers and firefighters. Local 439 holds an annual fundraiser to benefit the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Burn Camp for Kids and has raised over \$250,000 in eight years for this worthy cause.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and members of Steamfitters Local 439 as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary and to wish them continued success in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID LAWSTUEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Northeast Iowa Community College Dairy Science Professor David Lawstuen for being named the 2011 Iowa Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The United States Professors of the Year program seeks out the most exceptional instructors in the country who make an impactful difference in their student's lives. Winners of this award must display an effective teaching method, as well as a demonstrably positive influence on his or her students. This program is the only nationwide program that recognizes the excellence of our nation's undergraduate professors and mentors. Entries for this esteemed program are reviewed by top U.S. educators and administrators to ensure that America's best professors are bestowed the honor.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great honor to represent a state with such a proud academic reputation. Professor Lawstuen, his wife Debbie, fellow colleagues, students, and parents of the NIACC community should be very proud of the academic climate they have produced. Professor Lawstuen's student's futures are a little brighter with his capable instruction and I wish him and his colleagues the best as they continue to provide a positive impact on the future leaders of our state and country. Thank you.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES ROUNDTREE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James Roundtree for his service of faith and prayer in Brooklyn and dedication to lead others towards a righteous path.

Mr. Roundtree was born in Savannah, Georgia to Minister Levan and Rosabelle Roundtree. He is the third child of ten siblings and grew up in a very religiously Christian home. Growing up Mr. Roundtree attended Dalton Baptist Church in Sylvania, Georgia where he served on the Usher Board. He is a

man that takes his spirituality very seriously and looks to spread its power with those he encounters.

Mr. Roundtree relocated to Queens, New York in 1968 where he met and wed Alma Lee. Together they have one son and twin daughters. As a man of faith Mr. Roundtree conducts himself as a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Roundtree is a member of Antioch Baptist Church, located in Brooklyn, New York. At this church he served on the Usher Board and as Secretary of the Deacon Ministry for several years. Currently he is the treasurer for Sunday School.

After 35 years of service Mr. Roundtree retired from Gould Paper Company in 2004. He is now an employee of the Board of Education in New York City.

Throughout his life Mr. Roundtree has made considerable achievements: In 2006 he had confirmation of his ordination as Deacon; in 2010 he attained his Associate, Bachelor's and Master's Degree's in theology at North Carolina College of Theology; and in 2010 he also had his confirmation of his ordination as Minister.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. James Roundtree for his dedicated service to the church and his faith.

NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 822) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chair, after a decade in which 10 to 12 thousand Americans were murdered with guns every single year, the House is considering legislation to protect criminals' ability to carry concealed weapons. This reckless legislation almost certainly would add to our gun homicide rate, which is already 19.5 times higher than other developed countries. This bill will likely add to the gun violence death toll, which totals over 1 million Americans since 1968.

H.R. 822, the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act, could open the door for criminals or terrorists to use fraudulent concealed weapon permits from other states. As the Virginia State Police wrote in a letter that I will submit for the record, state police in one state frequently are unable to verify a concealed carry permit from another state. For those states where verification is possible, in many cases states have already established reciprocity. It would be reckless, however, to establish a uniform reciprocity standard under which our police cannot verify many concealed carry permits. Can we risk the possibility that a violent criminal or a terrorist could be pulled over yet be allowed to continue on their way because the police officer is unable to check the validity of a concealed carry permit? Regardless of our respective positions on concealed carry

laws, I would hope that we can at least legislate in a manner that preserves the ability of police to protect our communities from violent criminals.

Finally, it is ironic that the self-appointed defenders of states' rights would negate public safety laws across America through Congressional fiat. This bill effectively negates any concealed carry laws in states for out of state residents in a gross abuse of Congressional power which endangers our communities and first responders.

This destructive legislation only will add to the death toll that has already caused so much grief in communities like Northern Virginia. I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

MARKING VETERANS DAY IN LEONARDTOWN, MD

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on Veterans Day, I had the privilege of attending the annual parade honoring our veterans in Leonardtown and remembering the fallen service members from St. Mary's County, Maryland. It was a moving and meaningful ceremony, with many who have served our nation in uniform and their families attending. The parade in Leonardtown is the largest in the state, with a long tradition of honoring the service of Maryland veterans.

The program included four students from Leonardtown Elementary School, each of whom read a brief statement written to answer the question "What does Veterans Day mean to me?" Their words were a powerful affirmation that the ideals our service members have fought to protect continue to be passed on to the next generation, and that with those ideals we teach a love of country and respect for service. I would like to share their statements with my colleagues.

Katy Kindley wrote: "Veterans Day means to honor and love the ones who fought in all wars or to honor someone who didn't fight but served to help those in damaged places. Where do they go when they leave? What places will they visit? Will they ever come back? All armed forces that serve our country take only with them—hope. The hope that they won't let those in need be [needy], the hope to succeed in their job, or the hope to just come home to their families. Navy, Army, Air Force, U.S. Marines, or any other force that serves our country take hope and the will to serve with them.

"If you are the child of a veteran, hold your hand up. How do you feel when your mom or dad leave to go on travel? Do you feel scared they will never come back? Do you wonder if they will bring something back? All of your questions remain with you. I'm glad to say that I too have a brilliant and most valiant veteran to look up to—my dad. My dad does his best to serve in the Navy. A lot of times he leaves for a very long trip. One time, he left for seven months! I was very sad. But I was overjoyed to see him come home. Let's take a day to honor, love, and cherish the ones who served in our country. To all those veterans out there, I say: you rock!"

Liam Byers read his statement: "Can you imagine what life would be like without our

brave veterans? We probably would live in a country where we were not free at all. We couldn't go to school and get a good education for our futures. We couldn't go to the church we wanted or go to church at all. We probably couldn't choose our jobs or even our marriages!

"The brave veterans who risked their lives and health to fight to keep us free are perhaps some of the bravest people in our proud American history. They keep us and our rights safe and free from oppression, such as communism and tyranny.

"We have Veterans Day to honor the brave men and women who fought to keep us and our country free. We have two minutes of silence on Veterans Day called the 'Great Silence,' where we remember everybody who fought (and died) for our freedom. My Boy Scout troop marches in a parade for Veterans Day and throws candy to the parade watchers (and sometime we pick up candy on the road for ourselves!).

"On Veterans Day I feel proud to be living in America, where our noble veterans serve in the Armed forces to keep our country free. How do you feel on Veterans Day?"

Lauren Menges shared these thoughts: "Veterans Day is a day set aside to honor America's servicemen and women for their patriotism, love of their country, and willingness to sacrifice for our freedom. A veteran is anyone who has served in the armed forces, such as: Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, or Air Force.

"Veterans Day used to be called Armistice Day. It honored the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I on November 11, 1918. The end of the war took place on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice. It was declared a legal holiday on May 13, 1938, and was officially declared Veterans Day on November 11. Some people celebrate with a parade. Most schools have the day off. And other countries celebrate by observing two minutes of silence at 11:00.

"I have several family members who served in the military. My great uncle, Gordon Moniz, served in the Korean War, and my uncle, Bryan Menges, served during Operation Desert Storm. My first cousin, Joshua Menges, graduated last year from West Point and is now actively serving his country. I love that my family members served in the military. I am grateful for all the veterans and for their bravery.

"I would like to quote from a poem by Linda Ellis called 'Mommy, What is a Veteran?' 'How do you describe a veteran and the sacrifices they made so that you and your children's children could live free . . . and unafraid? How do you describe a veteran for a child's sake? You say: A veteran is a person to whom we owe every breath we take.'"

Also, we heard a statement from Maddie McCauley: "To many people, Veterans Day is special. Veterans Day all started on November 11, 1919, as Armistice Day. Armistice Day was to celebrate the first anniversary of World War I. Armistice Day was to honor all the brave soldiers who fought in World War I, keeping the United States safe. Now, Veterans Day is to honor all the brave souls who fought in all wars, who gave us our freedom, which many people elsewhere do not have.

"Veterans Day is celebrated with speeches, parades, special church services or cere-

monies, visiting graves, and having the Great Silence. Many people visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This tomb holds the body of a U.S. soldier who was killed in battle. Nobody knew who this fearless man was.

"Veterans Day to me is an important holiday. I do have a few veterans in my family. My Great-Grandpa Hal was a fighting ace in the Air Force for many years. My family and I hang our American flag from our house. We also wear red, white, and blue to honor America. I think of many soldiers who endured many tough days away from their family fighting. I think, 'Thank you for all you have suffered just to keep us free and safe.'"

Katy, Liam, Lauren, Maddie, and their classmates, even at their young age, understand the sacrifices made by our veterans. I was glad they were able to participate in the ceremony alongside other public officials, and the many veterans who were on hand.

Together, we all thanked the families of three St. Mary's County fallen heroes for their sons' service and sacrifice. SPC Raymond J. Faulstich Jr. and CPL Matthew Wallace gave their lives serving in Iraq, and SGT Ryan Patrick Baumann fell in combat in Afghanistan. We also applauded a recently returned wounded warrior, Thomas Caleb Getscher, who lost both legs and part of an arm in Afghanistan. Patuxent Habitat for Humanity will soon be helping to renovate his home to make it more accessible.

In their memory, and in honor of the veterans who returned home, we continue to recommit ourselves every Veterans Day to meeting our obligations to those who served our nation and put their lives on the line for the freedoms we hold dear.

A TRIBUTE TO CHARLENE PHILLIPS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Charlene Phillips, a native New Yorker with a passion for helping others through non-profit means.

Ms. Phillips was educated in the New York City Public School system. She attended Long Island University where she received an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts and a Bachelor of Arts Degree. She graduated with Honors, Summa Cum Laude.

Ms. Phillips is the District Manager for Community Board 3, a position she has held since January 2006. She began working for the Community Board in December of 2004. Ms. Phillips has always enjoyed assisting people and felt that she would be able to live her passion through her position of helping at the Community Board. She has managed for the past 15 years to work in the field of service provider to the community through diverse non-profit organizations.

Prior to coming to Community Board 3, she worked in the office of Attorney Kimberly L. Detherage, again providing service to those of our community. Ms. Phillips possesses a humble spirit and is rarely seen in the forefront. In the 1990s she worked for a church where she provided services to the congregants, often utilizing the services of the Community Board

and its former District Manager. Later, she worked for an organization, The Faith Center for Community Development, which specialized in capacity building for organizations within the faith-based community to enhance the communities around them through areas of housing, day care, and multi-service facilities.

In addition to her work at the Community Board, Ms. Phillips is very active in her church. Her activities include singing in the choir, teaching children in Sunday School, and she also worked with the Female Rites of Passage Program for young ladies between the ages of 12–18 for twelve years. She has recently become a Deacon in Brooklyn Community Church.

Ms. Phillips believes that God places you in diverse circumstances to allow you to fully understand exactly where you should be and what you should be doing.

Ms. Phillips' motto is: "If she can help someone as she passes along this way; then her living will truly not be in vain.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Charlene Phillips for her extraordinary ability to serve her fellow constituents with unwavering dedication.

GREATER NEW BEDFORD SALUTES
THE VERY REV. CONSTANTINE S.
BEBIS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on October 30th, one of the great leaders of Southeastern Massachusetts retired—not from our community, but in his official capacity as the Pastor of St. George Greek Orthodox Church. His retirement comes to some extent as a loss to our community, although after 58 years of superb service, no one can begrudge him that step. But we do not believe he will be retiring from the extraordinarily important role he has played in the life of the community at large.

Father Bebis was a man of great enthusiasm for life, deep learning and an example or religion in its very best sense. To be with him was to draw strength from him, to be inspired and cheered by him, and to feel lucky to be one of the countless people whom he treated as friends.

Mr. Speaker, in the New Bedford Standard Times, Saturday, October 29th, Linda Andrade Rodrigues wrote a very thoughtful piece that captures the spirit of Father Bebis and the love that people in our region have for him. I ask that this be printed here.

[From Southcoast Today, Oct. 29, 2011]

'HE HAS ILLUMINED OUR MINDS, DEEPENED OUR SOULS, ENLARGED OUR HEARTS': THE VERY REV. CONSTANTINE S. BEBIS RETIRES AFTER 58 YEARS AS PASTOR

(By Linda Andrade Rodrigues)

DARTMOUTH, NH.— The Very Rev. Constantine S. Bebis, the beloved pastor of St. George Greek Orthodox Church for the past 58 years, will officially retire on Oct. 30, celebrating his last Sunday service as "proistamenos".

Born on the isle of Crete, Bebis never dreamed that he would someday come to America. As a young boy, he lived in Pireaus, Greece, with his widowed mother